SI N i.	Name of the Company	Service Area
		Orissa, Bihar including Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh including Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Tamil Nadu
5.	M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu including- Chennai
6.	M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan
7.	M/s. Hughes Telecom India Ltd.	Maharashtra including Mumbai & Goa.

Telecom services in rural areas

1206. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to improve telecom service in the rural areas of Bellary Lok Shabh constituency in Kamantaka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile phone service to Bellary; and

(c) if so, by when, it would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE DM THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as on 31st October, 2001,111 telephone exchanges with 74936 equipped capacity and 56449 direct exchange lines are working in Bellary Lok Sahba Constituency in Karnataka. Out of 111 exchanges 96 exchanges have reliable transmission media.

STD facility is provided to District Headquarater, all Sub-division,Taluk Headquarter and Block Headquarters. Village Public Telephones are provided to all 591 listed villages.

Two new exchanges have been opened at (i) H. Veerapura and (ii) Garaganagalapura and 2583 new connections have been provided so far in this year.

Internet facility is provided in rural and urban areas.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Purchase orders are yet to be placed and as per present indications, it is expected that the network will roll out in the next financial year.

Ratio of Rural and Urban Telephone

1207. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rural and urban telephone ratio to population at the end of each of the last five financial years;

(b) India's stand in terms of Tele-density in comparison with other countries;

(c) what are the projections during the next five years; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to acheive this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The tele-density for urban and rural areas for the period 1997-2001 is given in statement-I *(See* below).

(b) A comparative picture of tele-density in India and other selected countries at the end of 1998 is given in Statement-II *(See* below). This shows that India's tele-density was only 1.9 per hundred population as against the world average of 14.6.

(c) The projections for the next five years i.e. for the year ending 2002 to 2006 are given in Statement-Ill *(See* below). At this rate, the target of 15 telephone per 100 population by the end of 2010 laid down in National Telecom Policy (NTP), 1999 is expected to be achieved.

(d) The Government has proposed to achieve the tele-density in the following manners:—

(1) Provision of universal service to all uncovered areas, including rural areas.

(2) Encouragement to development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure and making provision of rural communications mandatory for all fixed service providers.